

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/684,375

Examiner

Tom P. Duong

Applicant(s)

KANNO ET AL.

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/15/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/21/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Daniel J. Stanger on November 2, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 2, line 24 and page 3, line 1, replace "plate-like baffle wall" to --baffle plate--.

On page 3, line 1, delete "a portion near".

On page 4, line 18, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 4, line 19, delete "a portion near".

On page 5, lines 1 & 4, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 6, lines 9 & 15 & 18, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 7, lines 6 & 9 & 21, replace "wall" to --plate--;

On page 9, line 10, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 14, lines 1 & 3 & 8 & 12 & 16 & 18, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 14, line 4, delete "around".

On page 15, lines 20 & 23 & 24, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 17, lines 2 & 9, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 19, line 22, replace "wall" to --plate--.

On page 19, lines 23-24, delete "a portion near".

In the Abstract:

On page 29, delete the 1st paragraph and 3rd paragraph.

In the claims:

Claim 19 is canceled.

In claim 1, lines 12-13, replace "plate-like baffle wall" to --baffle plate--.

In claim 1, line 13, delete "a portion near".

In claim 8, line 4, replace "wall" to --plate--.

In claim 15, page 26, lines 16 & 18 & 22, replace "wall" to --plate--.

In claim 15, page 26, lines 18-19, delete "a portion near".

In claim 16, page 27, line 4, replace "wall" to --plate--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to show or suggest as in claims 1 and 15, the specific flow rectifier is a baffle plate having a through hole at the center and the spiral flow generated is by said spiral flow generator is concentrated at the through hole, and then passed through the through hole and an enlarged section of a flow path downstream of the through hole before being introduced into the catalyst bed in combination with the additional features recited therein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom P. Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2794. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tom Duong
November 2, 2005
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Glenn Caldarola
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700